AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented): An automatic focusing apparatus comprising:

a photoelectric conversion device which converts an object image formed by a focus lens, which is used to make focus adjustment of an object image, into an electrical signal;

an extraction device which extracts a signal that corresponds to a high-frequency component of a luminance signal of an object from an output signal of said photoelectric conversion device; and

a control device which makes a scan operation that stores outputs from said extraction device at predetermined positions while driving said focus lens, and extracts a peak position where the stored output of said extraction device become maximum value, and drives said focus lens to the peak position obtained by the scan operation,

wherein said control device changes the number of times of the scan operation in accordance with a state of an instruction device which instructs to start a photographing operation.

2. (Original): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when the state of the instruction device designates start of the photographing operation, the number of times of the scan operation is set to be smaller than the number of times of the scan operation when the state of the instruction device does not designate start of the photographing operation.

3. (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein an interval between the predetermined positions is changed in correspondence with the state of the instruction device.

4. (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein when the state of the instruction device designates start of the photographing operation, the step interval is

set to be smaller than the interval when the state of the instruction device does not designate start of the photographing operation.

5. (Original): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the state of the instruction device is detected upon completion of the scan operation, and the number of times of the scan operation is changed in correspondence with the state of the instruction device.

6. (Original): The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein when the state of the instruction device designates start of the photographing operation, the number of times of the scan operation is set to be smaller than the number of times of the scan operation when the state of the instruction device does not designate start of the photographing operation.

7. (Original): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the state of the instruction device is detected during the scan operation, and the number of times of the scan operation is changed in correspondence with the state of the instruction device.

8. (Original): The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein when the state of the instruction device designates start of the photographing operation, the number of times of the scan operation is set to be smaller than the number of times of the scan operation when the state of the instruction device does not designate start of the photographing operation.

9. (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the state of the instruction device is detected during the scan operation, and an interval between the predetermined position is changed in correspondence with the state of the instruction device.

10. (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein when the state of the instruction device designates start of the photographing operation, the interval is set to be smaller than the interval when the state of the instruction device does not designate start of the photographing operation.

11. (Original): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the state of the instruction device is detected during the scan operation, and the scan operation is ended in correspondence with the state of the instruction device.

12. (Previously Presented): A program for making an image recording apparatus execute an automatic focusing process, the image recording apparatus comprising a focus lens used to make focus adjustment of an object image, a focus lens drive device which drives the focus lens, a photoelectric conversion device which converts an object image formed by the focus lens into an electrical signal, an extraction device which extracts a signal that represents a high-frequency component of a luminance signal of an object from an output signal of the photoelectric conversion device, and an instruction device which instructs to start a photographing operation, the program comprising:

making a scan operation that stores outputs from the extraction device at predetermined positions while driving the focus lens, and extracts a peak position where the stored of the extraction device become maximum value, executing a process for driving the focus lens to the peak position obtained by the scan operation, and changing the number of times of the scan operation in accordance with a state of the instruction device.

13. (Previously Presented): A computer readable storage medium storing a program according to claim 12.

14-17. (Canceled)